

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on December 8, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 19 and 21 are amended. Claims 1-9, 11 and 13-22 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-9, 11 and 13-22 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shoff et al. (US 6,240,555) in view of Knee et al. (US 5,589,892) and Schein et al. (US 6,002,394). This rejection is respectfully traversed, as not all elements of the claims are shown by the references, either alone or combined.

The present invention displays “at least one television channel and at least one scheduled internet channel concurrently...wherein the at least one scheduled internet channel has at least one event with a scheduled start time and a scheduled end time”. It “solves the problem of managing multiple channels from multiple sources”, page 3, line 9, by integrating “both television channels and internet channels in a single list of channels available on the system.” lines 5-6. Shoff et al. is concerned with “supplying interactive supplemental content along with continuous video content programs to viewers.” Col. 2, lines 56-58. The supplemental content is not a separate channel within the meaning of the claim, but is associated with a television channel. Thus, there is no list of channels with both internet and television channels.

The Office Action points to Shoff et al. Fig. 3, and col. 5, line 60 to Col. 6 lines 67 as showing supplemental content connected to the Internet website at starting times of a certain day. This interpretation is respectfully traversed. The start times clearly refer to the program on the network. The supplemental content does not have a start time. For instance, the website <http://www.nbc.com/seinfeld.html> is a current link that shows content even if selected right now. However, as indicated in Shoff et al. Fig. 6, block 176 and corresponding description in Col. 10, lines 50-53, timing information for the supplemental content may be extracted and synchronized to the program at 182 in Fig. 7. There is nothing in the graphical user interface of Shoff et al. that provides scheduled start and end times for an internet channel. Shoff et al. merely contains a

link to supplemental content associated with a scheduled network program. The content itself may contain the timing information that controls its display in association with the network program. This language confirms that the start and stop times for the supplemental content are not displayed in the channel list, and that the supplemental content is not a channel in the list.

The other references are not cited as providing the elements discussed above that are lacking in Shoff et al. Knee et al. describes accessing data feeds in the same manner as television channels and customizing a user interface by creating a favorite channel list comprised of both real and virtual channels. Col. 6, lines 56-59, as cited by the Examiner. The data feed is described as including "the Internet, which is a source of vast amounts of information on practically any topic imaginable." Col. 46, lines 2-4. However, no reference in the language referenced in the Office Action can be found to scheduled events on an internet channel. Thus, Knee et al. does not provide elements lacking from Shoff et al.

Schein et al. discloses links with dates as shown in FIG. 19C. No start and stop times are displayed. Further, Schein et al. deals with "directly linking television viewers with broadcasters and advertisers during the real time broadcast or non-real-time internet broadcast of a commercial or program." Col. 2, lines 46-49. This points out that the internet broadcast is not contemplated as being scheduled, and thus has no start or stop time, and in essence, is not an event on a channel within the meaning of the currently claimed invention. The Office Action cites Col. 18, line 44 to Col. 19, line 51 for the proposition that an internet channel is scheduled. This is respectfully traversed. Such language clearly cites that the internet may be used to provide supplemental information, and that the internet may also be used to provide television broadcast schedules, but makes no reference to events that are scheduled on the internet. When taken as a whole, no concept of internet events was found in the Schein et al. Thus, the combination of all three references still lacks a scheduled internet even with start and stop times in a graphical user interface, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and are believed patentable for at least the same reasons.

Each of the remaining independent and dependent claims contain references to display of internet channels with events having start and stop times, and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 19 and 21 were amended to indicate that the internet and television channels had different events. In other words, the events are not directly related to each other. Thus, even if one were to equate the self contained synchronizing information of the website links in Shoff et al. to a channel, there would be nothing to synchronize it to, since there would be no corresponding television channel. Therefore, the rejection would not make sense in light of the amendments, and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Shoff et al. and the presently claimed invention are directed toward different problems. Shoff et al. associates internet content with a program on a network. The present invention deals with internet events on the same basis as programs on channels. Both are treated as events on channels in a channel list that has management functions. No timing information for an internet channel is shown in the user interface of Shoff et al., Knee et al., or Schein et al., as claimed. The supplemental content of Shoff et al., is further not a channel in a list of channels. The list in Shoff et al. Fig. 3 is a list of programs on networks. At best, it contains a pointer to a channel on the network. The supplemental content is clearly not a channel, but a link associated with a broadcast program.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6972 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0439.

Respectfully submitted,

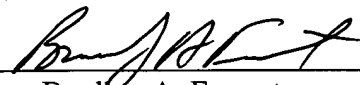
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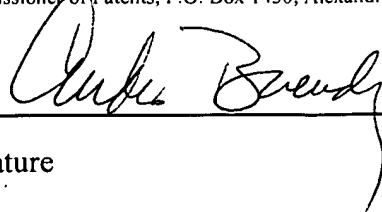


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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 8th day of March, 2004.

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